

Charleston Foto 1
Charleston, Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-77

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey
Prepared at Survey Headquarters for
Samuel Lapham, Jr., District Officer
42 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina

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CHARLESTON HOTEL

An Addendum to
Charleston Hotel
Charleston, South Carolina
in HABS Catalog (1941)

Location: South Carolina, Charleston County, Charleston,
Meeting Street

Present Owner: The Charleston Hotel, Inc., P. O. Box 857,
Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina

Present Use: Hotel

Brief Statement
of Significance: This 1839 hotel designed by Charles F. Reichardt
has been used by such famous personalities as
Daniel Webster, Jenny Lind and W. M. Thackeray
and is interesting architecturally because of its
colossal Classic Revival portico.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Charleston Hotel Company, original owner. (Contract for building the hotel, dated June 24, 1838, recorded in Charleston County Mesne Conveyance Office, Volume Z-10, p. 587 Longhand)
2. Date of erection: 1838-1839. (Beatrice St. Julien Ravenel, Architects of Charleston, Carolina Art Association, Charleston, 1945, pages 175-176)
3. Architect: Charles F. Reichardt (Ibid., and MCO Volume Z-10, p. 587)
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: N. F. Potter, James A. Potter and James E. Kelsey. (MCO volume Z-10, p. 587)
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The crypto-portico (under the colossal portico) has been walled up.
6. Important old views listed: Lithograph by B. W. Thayer, about 1839. (Reproduced in Architects of Charleston, opposite page 176)

Two photographs, including one of bedroom, about 1890, in
The News and Courier, (Charleston) of June 23, 1958, p. 1-B.

- B. Historical Events Connected With Structure: Hotel guests have included Daniel Webster, Jenny Lind, William Makepeace Thackeray and Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise. (Architects of Charleston, p. 176)

Prepared by Beatrice St. J. Ravenel
July 1958

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Four story cement covered brick structure with a flat tin and composition roof and a central court plan with a large portico along the front.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Foundations: Brick
2. Wall construction: Brick, covered with cement stucco
3. Chimneys: None - one unconnected for boiler room
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: wood
 - b. Windows and shutters: Wooden frames, no shutters
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Flat tin and composition roof
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Wood cornice
 - c. Dormers: None

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Main floor contains lobby and offices. Other three floors have about 50 rooms to a floor. Interior court in center of building, open to sky.
2. Stairways: Wooden, two (Modern elevators)

3. Flooring: Wooden, except main lobby which is tiled
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Sheetrock in some places, plaster on lath elsewhere
5. Doorways and doors: Wood
6. Trim: Plain wood
7. Hardware: Metal (modern)
8. Lighting: Electric
9. Heating: Central oil furnace

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Faces west on Meeting Street. On a main thoroughfare of the city.
2. Enclosures: None
3. Outbuildings: Small adjoining building containing boiler room
4. Walks: None
5. Landscaping: None

Prepared by Emma R. Martin, Charleston
July, 1958